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United States Department of State 5/4/82

Washington, D.C. 20520

EC030

May 4, 1983

P & E

Dear Senator Jackson:

Thank you for your letter of April 4 on behalf of your constituent, _____ concerning the human rights situation in Argentina, and specifically the existence of concentration camps in Argentina.

We know of no unacknowledged prisoners held in detention centers around the country. Those people presently in jail under other than common criminal charges are in prison facilities visited by the International Red Cross which maintains an active program in Argentina, with government approval, on behalf of imprisoned persons.

Of great importance is the commitment of the present Government of Argentina to return power to an elected government. On February 28 Argentine President Bignone announced that elections will be held on October 30, with the transfer of power to a civilian government to occur on January 30, 1984. We welcome this announcement of an electoral timetable and the prospects for a return to democracy in Argentina.

Among the other major human rights improvements are the virtual cessation of disappearances and the release of persons being detained without charges. There was no evidence of disappearances in 1982, and there have been no new long-term detentions under the authority of the national executive power (PEN) in over a year. Cases of PEN detentions are systematically reviewed by the Argentine authorities. The number of PEN detainees was down from 650 at the end of 1981 to about 200 by mid-April 1983 with new releases occurring monthly. The Government of Argentina has stated that there will be no PEN prisoners held by the end of this year. PEN prisoners will either be released or tried in the civilian or military courts for crimes alleged to have occurred during the earlier period of civil disorder.

The Honorable
Henry M. Jackson,
United States Senate.

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

() Release ☒ Excise () Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: () In Part () In Full

() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to

Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____


As regards foreign aid, the United States Government provides no economic or military assistance to Argentina at this time.


With cordial regards,

Sincerely,


Powell A. Moore
Assistant Secretary for
Congressional Relations

Enclosure:
Correspondence returned.


Drafted: ARA/SC:MAShea:mas
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(Wang #3749) #0510585


Clearances: ARA/SC:Jett
ARA/SC:RBH:ward
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